

Dear Friends,

As you and your loved ones prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving I would like to take a moment to share a couple of thoughts with you.

As you know, one of my four priorities as mayor is to keep our city safe. My goal has been to make Seattle the most prepared city in America whether it is for an earthquake or man-made catastrophe.

Your work in that regard has received strong support.

It is not easy to ask the public for additional money in tough times. Nevertheless, earlier this month, Seattle voters overwhelmingly approved a \$167.2 million Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy. That measure will:

- Rebuild and renovate 32 of the city's fire stations to bring them up to current earthquake safety standards
- Purchase a new fireboat and refurbish the existing Chief Seattle boat;
- Construct a new emergency-operations center, fire-alarm center, and a fire safety training facility
- Provide emergency medical and shelter supplies around the city
- Build an emergency back-up fire hydrant system throughout the city.

The public depends on us to keep our neighborhoods safe, and now we have additional resources to do that. These improvements to our emergency response capabilities will provide benefits for generations to come.

Thank you to Seattle's voters for their vote of confidence.

I also ask you to keep in mind our fellow city employees working in City Light's Skagit Project town of Diablo. A major rockslide has isolated the town. While everyone is safe, a number of our employees will be cut off from family and loved ones this holiday season.

The service performed by the residents of Diablo is a vivid reminder of the work all of you do day after day, year after year. Whether your work is answering a customer call, filling potholes, keeping a park maintained, assisting the needy, or protecting public safety, you are making a difference in the lives of our citizens. I thank you for your hard work, and wish you a happy holiday.

Sincerely,

GREG NICKELS
Mayor